

Brief History of Gateway

Gateway Pregnancy Center was begun as a vision of many churches that desired to have an evangelical crisis pregnancy ministry in Essex County, New Jersey.

In 1988, Rev. Michael Westbrook, and his wife, Maria, two volunteers at Archway Pregnancy Center, in Elizabeth, approached the Archway Board of Directors for help in beginning a ministry in the Newark, New Jersey area. Archway had been in existence since 1985.

Over the next year and a half, a steering committee proceeded with the many tasks to open such a center. In November 1989, Gateway was incorporated. In 1993, final approval by the IRS was given to establish Gateway as a permanent 501©-3 non-profit ministry under the category of “Education/Social Service”.

In the fall of 1998, Archway merged with Gateway to become Gateway Pregnancy Centers. Since both ministries were begun, over 18,000 women have been counseled and given free pregnancy tests, referrals to medical/social service experts, and material items.

Our present locations include:

Our 960 Springfield Avenue, Irvington site, was located in November 1990. The doors opened in July 1991, being the first, and only, evangelical pregnancy center in Essex County. The sign on our door says it best: ‘Gateway is not a medical facility, but a Christian ministry for all people’.

This site is within a half mile from Newark. Women and men have come from throughout northern New Jersey for a free pregnancy test, counseling, post abortion counseling, male responsibility counseling, chastity information and physical help.

Our 65 Jefferson Avenue, Elizabeth site is in a building housing a number of social service agencies. We have an excellent opportunity to do ministry and in fact have seen more women that at our previous location, 700 North Broad Street. That location was located two floors below a second trimester abortionist. To our knowledge, it was the only site offering abortion alternatives located in a building housing an abortion provider!

Part of our desire is to reach out with the love of Jesus Christ to all, including abortion providers .

Our Internet counseling ministry allows us to correspond with teens that have pregnancy related questions. The most accurate and timely information available can be accessed through our extensive website (www.gateway.org) .

A sonogram ministry was proposed in the fall of 2000 and our first nurses training occurred in September 2001. In November, 2001 we performed the first of many ultrasounds for pregnancy verification. This ministry allows women to see their preborn child early in their pregnancies. Statistics show that 90% of the women who view an ultrasound of their child choose to carry to term.

By the fall of 2003, we had performed over 250 sonograms, with the vast majority choosing to carry their babies to term. The sonogram ministry also sees many women come to Christ. Their hearts are softened by the Holy Spirit as they see life in their womb. Praise the Lord!

Gateway is fully equipped with on-site counseling, physical help, and a deep-based referral system to assist in almost any pregnancy situation.

We continually update our referral resource database, and do extensive research in the latest areas dealing with teen sexual involvement and pregnancy.

Our formal proactive position against violence in the quest for justice, especially our keen mission to show the love of God to all who disagree with us, allows us to interface well with both the secular as well as religious community, without compromising our core beliefs.

This year, we again thank God for His blessing of this unique part of the Gateway ministry, and desire to see it expand.

*History is both 'where we've been' and
'where we're going'.*

c. 2005